

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **March 18, 2003**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-10 and 12-25. Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-13, 16-17, and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al (EP 0 903 677 A2, hereinafter “Nakanishi”) in view of Fukuda et al. (USPN 5,890,153, hereinafter “Fukuda”). Claims 3, 14, and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda as applied to claims 1, 12, and 16 in further view of Sudhakaran et al (USPN 6,161,150, hereinafter “Sudhakaran”). Claims 4, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda as applied to claims 1, 12, and 16 and further in view of Ho (USPN 5,615,373, hereinafter “Ho”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 12, and 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi in view of Fukuda. Applicant respectfully points out that while Fukuda teaches use of one or more independent locks providing access to independent sub-units of the lockable resource, Fukuda does not teach that the independent lock is itself a lockable resource. Fukuda teaches the use of multiple controllers being able to lock multiple sub-units of lockable resources with only one level of abstraction.

In contrast, the present invention teaches that the policy that dictates the lock on a lockable resource including the controller governed by that policy is also a lockable resource. This allows multiple levels of abstraction where a policy can have a lock on a second policy that has a lock on a third policy that has a lock on a resource. Such levels of abstraction are not taught by Fukuda and may not be beneficial in the database management system taught by Fukuda, but are extremely beneficial and relevant to a policy-based management system such as the one taught in the instant application.

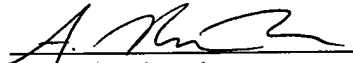
Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12, and 16 to clarify this point. Support for this amendment can be found in FIG. 2, as well as on page 8, lines 14 to 19 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 16 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 13-15, which depend upon claim 12, and claims 17-25, which depend upon claim 16 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 5, 2003

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